

TA Report 10.26.12

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING, November 13, 2012, 7pm at Town Hall

HURRICANE SANDY PREPARATION, proper prior planning increases health and safety

Below you will find storm preparation tips from MEMA and Verizon

LANDSCAPING IN FRONT OF TOWN HALL

Deeply felt thanks and appreciation to the Shutesbury Garden Club and Paul Vlach for putting in new plantings in front of town hall. They raised the money for the project through the two 250th Garden and Farm tours last year. Paul Vlach brought in heavy equipment and made it a bit easier but there was still a ton of work hauling, watering, planting and mulching this lovely area. Thanks to Paul Vlach, Penny Jacques, Rita Farrell, Meryl Mandell, Gail Fleishecker, Michael Broad, Bill Elliott, Catherine Hilton, Leslie Bracebridge and Orson Jones.



WIREDWEST Update

Here is Shutesbury's tally to date. Our goal is 80% response. We only need 226 more to hit our goal. Now we are at the hardest part! Many people have responded. **WE still NEED YOU! Our WiredWest numbers are inching up but...**

**WE ARE AT 52.04% AND COUNTING...MAIL YOUR CARD TODAY!
OR GO ONLINE NOW! LINK IS BELOW IN BLUE.**

| Town | Housing Units | Pledges | Internet | Phone | TV/Video |
|------------|---------------|------------|----------|-------|----------|
| Shutesbury | 807 | 420 52.04% | 417 | 302 | 301 |

If you have high speed internet now, DSL or satellite it is STILL CRITICAL You RESPOND, show your interest. WHY? Because this is tomorrow's technology answer, tomorrow and 30 years into the future. You want to have the most competitive, highest quality service possible. FIBER TO THE HOME is electricity in 1950.

Your record of interest will be used to write the WiredWest Cooperative business plan to solicit support for a bond, the financial king pin for the future of the new fiber network. Go to <https://hugo.jf-olm.com/~wiretnet/card.php>. Fill out SUPPORT CARDS for WIRED WEST online. Show your interest and support for affordable, state of the art, fiber optic cable to the home to bring you **internet, telephone and television service**. If you have questions please call. **CARDS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE LIBRARY AND TOWN HALL and at the SHUTESBURY ATHLETIC CLUB**. And you can fill it out online through the Shutesbury.org website.

COMPOSTERS AVAILABLE AT TOWN HALL

The Town Recycling Committee provides composters to town residents at a subsidized price of \$20. They are black magic! Watch your compost grow.

COUNCIL ON AGING POT LUCK LUNCHEON AT TOWN HALL, noon, Tuesday November 13, 2012. Call Marilyn Tibbetts at, 259-1976 by Friday November 9, 2012, to let her know you are coming and what you are bringing. See you there. The food is excellent!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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Verizon suggests customers prepare for Sandy by taking the following steps:

Customer Check List

- If you rely solely on cordless phones in your home, you should consider getting an inexpensive hard-wired phone that plugs directly into your home's wall jacks. Cordless phones will not function without commercial power, but corded phones will work in the event of a loss of commercial power.
- Remember home answering machines won't work without power, but Verizon voice mail service – which is powered by the network – will work and can serve as a convenient family message board.
- Charge all battery-powered devices before the storm hits, including wireless phones and PDAs, laptop computers, personal entertainment devices (like MP3 players), flashlights and radios. And check your supply of batteries.
- Many people keep all of their contact information in their PCs or wireless devices. Make contact lists and create communications plans for loved ones before the storm hits. If you are evacuated or are otherwise unreachable, make plans to communicate via wireless calling, text messaging, the Internet or other alternatives available at relocation sites.
- Top off all vehicle and generator fuel tanks before the storm – gas pumps also rely on commercial power.
- Check your local emergency-readiness authorities for their recommendations and advisories about the situation in your area. Be sure to check back with them if the situation gets worse.
- If you live in a flood-prone area, protect sensitive equipment like computers and TVs by getting them as high above ground as you can so when service comes back up, you'll be back in business quickly.

MEMA suggests the public take the following steps:

Hurricane Preparedness Tips for the General Public:

- Stay informed by monitoring the storm via the media.
- Be sure to have a well-stocked Family Disaster Kit in the event you lose power or are isolated for a number of days.
- Clear clogged rain gutters. This storm brings the potential for torrential rain. Providing clear drainage will help prevent misdirected flooding.
- Secure outdoor items such as lawn furniture, trash barrels, hanging plants, toys and awnings that can be broken or picked up by strong winds and potentially become a projectile.
- Elevate articles in your basement that could be damaged from even minor flooding.
- Keep your vehicles fully fuelled.
- Have a certain amount of cash available. If power is lost, ATMs may not be working.

Ping4alerts!:

MEMA encourages smartphone users to download the free ping4alerts! app. This app is available free of charge for iPhone and Android phones and receives severe weather alerts from the National Weather Service and emergency information from MEMA based on the user's location. Learn more at <http://www.mass.gov/mema/mobileapp>.

Online Resources:

For additional information and resources, visit:

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency at www.mass.gov/mema ([Hurricane preparedness tips and other preparedness information are available through the "Hurricane" link on MEMA's homepage](#)).

MEMA's Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/MassachusettsEMA>

MEMA Twitter: [@MassEMA](#)

Federal Emergency Management Agency at www.fema.gov

National Hurricane Center website at www.nhc.noaa.gov

National Weather Service/Taunton at www.weather.gov/boston

National Weather Service/Albany, NY at www.weather.gov/albany

Mass211 at www.mass211.org

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